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EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

CURATORS

—OF THE—

MUSEUM

—OF—

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

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(THIRTEENTH OF PRINTED SERIES.)

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MIDDLETOWN, CONN.:

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OFFICERS OF THE MUSEUM,

FOR THE YEAR 1888-9.



JOHN M. VAN VLECK, LL. D.,	-	<i>Acting President of the University.</i>
WILLIAM NORTH RICE, PH. D., LL. D.,	-	<i>Professor of Geology.</i>
HERBERT W. CONN, PH. D.,	- - -	<i>Professor of Biology.</i>
AARON L. TREADWELL, B. S.,	- -	<i>Assistant in Natural History.</i>

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EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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To the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan University:

The officers of the Museum respectfully submit the following as their report for the year ending June 24th, 1889.

No important changes have been made in the general arrangement of the Museum during the past year; the work done being chiefly re-arrangement in detail of particular departments.

The classification labels in the Mineralogy cases had become considerably discolored by time, and have been replaced by new ones. Black-walnut strips have been put in these cases, separating the different species of minerals from each other.

When the minerals were moved, in 1871, from their old quarters in Observatory Hall to their present position in Judd Hall, there was no time to catalogue them; and, while accessions have been catalogued as they have come in, it has never until now been practicable to catalogue the old collection. A part of this work has been accomplished during the Spring term.

In the last report, mention was made of a new arrangement in the cases of Physical Geology and Lithology. Labels indicating the classification of the material have now been put in these cases, and the sub-divisions separated from each other by black-walnut strips.

In the Upper Hall a considerable re-arrangement of specimens has been made.

In our collection of corals, many of the specimens had never been catalogued. These have all been catalogued and labeled.

The cases containing the alcoholic specimens of Insecta, Crustacea, and Hydrozoa have been overhauled, and the specimens arranged by orders on the shelves, following a scheme of classification adopted by Professor Conn. The orders have been separated from each other by black-walnut strips, and cards indicating the respective orders have been placed on the shelves.

The collection of fishes had not been re-arranged for a number of years; and, by reason of numerous accessions, the arrangement had become considerably confused. These have all been sorted into families, and placed on the shelves in the order given in the *Standard Natural History*. The families have been separated from each other by black-walnut strips, and the sub-class, order, and family of each division, indicated by labels.

All the cases on the north side of the Upper Hall have now been recently placed in good order.

The printed labels for species of Unionidæ, sent us last year from the Smithsonian Institution, have been put in their places in the collection.

The Synoptic Collection has been completed by the addition of the Vertebrata. The general plan of the Collection, as stated in the last report, has been followed in adding this group, with a modification in the case of the class Mammalia. Here, owing to the nature of the specimens, it has been found impossible to arrange each in its true position relatively to the others. Small cards have, however, been placed on the specimens, showing the orders to which they belong, and there will probably be no difficulty in referring each to its proper place in the scheme.

The shells contained in the case of drawers in the Laboratory have all been re-arranged in accordance with the classification given in the *Standard Natural History*. This puts them into a very convenient condition for reference when needed in class work.

The Herbarium has been overhauled; and, in order to make room for some necessary changes in the Laboratory, has been arranged more compactly.

In two instances, specimens have been loaned for scientific purposes.

The aboriginal clay masks and busts from Cordova, Mexico, presented to the Museum last year by Joseph S. Spinney, Esq., have been sent to Washington, in order that casts might be made of them for the use of the National Museum.

A large number of specimens of the genus *Carex*, from the Barratt herbarium, have been loaned to Prof. Bailey, of Ithaca, N. Y., who is preparing a monograph on the subject, and desired them for reference.

Among the accessions to the Museum a few are worthy of special mention.

The value of our collection of corals has been greatly enhanced the past year by the gift of specimens of about thirty species from Rev. J. W. Barnhart, of the class of 1861. These are chiefly very fine specimens from the East Indies; and they constitute an accession especially welcome in view of the fact that the corals of that region were previously but scantily represented in our collection. The corals of our collection are predominantly those of Bermuda and of the west coast of tropical America.

By an exchange made with Trinity College, a collection of butterflies, including several South American species, has been secured. A number of corals collected in Bermuda by Professors Rice and Goode, were exchanged for them.

In the early part of March a wild cat (*Lynx rufus*) was killed in Middle Haddam, and presented to the Museum by Mr. J. A. Carrier. This specimen is interesting from the fact that it is, at the present time, quite rare in this locality.

Two years ago there was mentioned in the Report of the Museum the discovery of a specimen of *Stizostedium vitreum* at Cromwell, Conn. This year a second specimen of the same species from the same locality is included in the list of accessions. These two are the only known specimens of this species from any hydrographical basin between that of the St. Lawrence and that of the Susquehanna. Notices of these two remarkable finds have been published in the *American Naturalist* for October, 1887, and October, 1888.

To the generosity of Professor H. L. Wells, of Yale University, we owe a specimen of the remarkable new mineral, Sperrylite, from the Vermilion Mine, Algoma, Ontario, described by himself and Professor S. L. Penfield in the *American Journal of Science* for January, 1889.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF ACCESSIONS.

- Abercrombie, E. E.—Belgian coin.
- Alexander, H. T.—*Attacus luna*, and *Platysamia cecropia*.
- Alexander, W. W.—Austrian coin.
- Barnhart, J. H.—Minerals, from Yellowstone Park and Michigan.
- Barnhart, Rev. J. W.—Minerals, from Yellowstone Park; Corals, from Florida and the East Indies; Molluscan Shells, and Echinoderms.
- Barrows, W. B.—*Didelphys azaræ*, from South America.
- Boardman, H. F.—Shale and Marl, from Nebraska.
- Brown, H. B.—Garnet, from Chatham, Conn.
- Burr, F. P.—Various specimens of snakes.
- Camier, H. W.—Arterial system of cat, injected and dried.
- Carrier, J. A.—*Lynx rufus*, and *Mygale hentzii*.
- Cassidy, W. M.—Spodumene and altered Spodumene, from Branchville, Conn.
- Coburn, Rev. G. L.—Asphaltum in shale, from Southbury, Conn.
- Conn, Prof. H. W.—Malformed sea-urchin.
- Crittenden, A. R.—Fossils (Pliocene); wood bored by insect larvæ.
- Dana, Prof. E. S.—Gabbro, from Waterville, N. H.
- Dickinson, Prof. J.—Minerals, from Arizona.
- Ferguson, Mrs. Prof. H.—Skins of *Ornithorhynchus* and other Australian animals. (Deposited.)
- Gardiner, Prof. F.—*Petaurus taguanoides*, from Australia; Indian bread, from Arizona.
- Gardiner, Rev. F., Jr.—Various English moths.
- Gleason, Miss M. L.—*Platysamia cecropia*.
- Goss, W. S.—*Phrynosoma cornuta*.

- Griffith, C. M.—Rocks illustrating the stratigraphy of Portland, Conn.
- Heath, W. R.—*Alaus ocellatus*.
- Johnson, L. N.—Numerous botanical specimens, chiefly from North Carolina and Virginia.
- Loper, S. W.—Calcite, Iolite, Hornblende, and other minerals from Guilford, Ct.; fossils and peculiar markings from the shales of Durham, Ct.; various zoölogical and botanical specimens.
- Mack, O. W.—*Dendrophycus triassicus*; slab bearing numerous tracks of *Brontozoum sillimanium*.
- Merrill, G. P.—Mica Diorite, from Stony Point, N. Y.
- Mills, Rev. E. M.—Two specimens of Trilobites.
- Newell, C. A.—Leg bones of calf.
- Pitt, J. R.—*Bubo virginianus*.
- Rice, Prof. W. N.—Minerals and rocks, from Waterville, N. H.
- Rice, Prof. W. N., and Class.—Magnetite, Uraninite, Staurolitic Mica Schist, and various lithological specimens.
- Rogers & Hubbard Co.—Malformed cannon bone of ox.
- Scott, F. H.—*Agelæus phœniceus*.
- Smithsonian Institution.—*Hystrix cristata*, from Europe.
- Sterling, H.—Pupa skins of *Cicada canicularis*; various insects.
- Taylor, L.—*Stizostedium vitreum*, from Cromwell, Ct.
- Thayer, Rev. E. O.—*Dynastes tityus*.
- Tilton, J. L.—*Hyperchiria io*; minerals, from Portland, Conn.
- Treadwell, A. L.—*Mantis carolina*; *Molothrus ater*; mounted skeleton of *Felis domestica*.
- Trinity College.—Various Lepidoptera. (Exchange.)
- Wells, Prof. H. L.—Sperryllite, from Algoma, Ontario.

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